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"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.

Our thanks are due to Hon. H. Hamlin, one of our Senators in Congress, for several public documents, and also for a copy of Holbrook's Agricultural Geology. We have published heretofore in the Farmer, the numbers of which this little work is composed, but we are glad to see it again in an embodied form. It makes a neat little manual, and we should be glad to see it in the hands of every child in the whole Union; and it gives us sincere pleasure to learn, from a letter just received from Mr. Holbrook, that the Smithsonian Institution has "virtually decided to circulate one hundred thousand copies of this little book by the members of Congress. A large number will also be circulated by the Census Bureau." The people of the United States are under great obligations to Mr. Holbrook, for the long continued and unwearying efforts he has made in the cause of education. We are indebted to him, if we mistake not, for the system of Lyceum Lectures which is now so prevalent, and productive of so much good to the community. In a quiet but effectual manner, he has simplified and rendered pleasing to the young mind, the mode of instruction in some of the most abstruse sciences. Thousands and tens of thousands of actively useful men on the stage of action, have reason to bless him for the many improvements he has been instrumental in bringing about in our schools and educational institutions. The following extracts from his letter, which (though a private one) we take the liberty to publish, shows the zeal with which he still labors in the great cause of education:

"In connection with these matters I beg leave to present for your consideration two or three suggestions, proposing general and combined action."

First, directing the attention of the schools of the country, during the coming season, to Agricultural Geology, or the principal elements of Geology, by forming collections by the hands of the pupils. To commence, say teacher needs but to propose to his pupils to step out doors and collect the different kinds of stone for a School Cabinet. If collected, they are nearly certain to be burnt. Some individual will appear capable of giving their names, or they can be sent where the names can be obtained. The most direct and simple mode of getting their names, is by a small collection of labelled specimens, with which to compare them. The expense need not exceed two or three dollars.

The second suggestion is directing the attention of schools to Drawing. This can also be commenced any moment in any school, when the teacher should think best to propose it. He only needs to place before the school some simple figure, with slates in the hands of the pupils to use for drawing. By connecting drawing and writing, pupils never fail to improve more rapidly in the latter than when pursued by mere copy-writing, which never produces, in one case in a hundred, a fair, plain legible hand when applied rapidly to business.

My third suggestion is a joint action between schools and agricultural societies, in relation to Fairs to be held next fall. This subject is presented in a report of a committee on School Products, at the Fair of the Maryland Agricultural Society, held in Baltimore last fall. In a day or two, I shall have a copy of that report which I will send you. You may possibly think it fit for the Farmer. Schools preparing specimens for Agricultural Fairs, can hardly fail to make rapid improvement, and their specimens exhibited must increase the interest of the Fairs."

A GOOD WORD FOR TURNIPS.

Our friend, J. Y. Burgin, of Red Beach, Washington County, in a business letter received not long since, thus alludes to the "turnip controversy," last summer. He is right in his good opinion of the turnip. We wish there were a thousand bushels raised in Maine where there is but one now. We continue to say to the farmers of Maine, "Don't give up the turnip."

Mr. Burgin, speaking incidentally of this root, says:

"Really, without a joke, there is nothing like that same crop of turnips. At least, it is so here. Now when I put in my extravagant story on turnips, last summer, I was by no means convinced of the whole truth of what I said. I knew it was true of my own single crop. But that was a one-sided statement, viewed as such, and meant for that by me. I wished to be so understood then. I now wish to be understood most candidly as stating that it is my firm belief that you cannot do a better thing for any of them than to coax them, or in some way persuade them to plant (or sow) more turnips. They did me no harm's service this year—and I had only a failure crop. The crop was set in August at 2500 to 3000 bushels, and turned out but 1200 bushels of large roots; and yet the 1200 that cost me all that 2500 would have cost, (save the expense of gathering,) have proved to be the most profitable crop of the year. With these, and plenty of straw, I have made beef and pork, and kept my working team, (four to five yoke, this winter,) in fine condition, with little hay and provender; and the young stock in like good condition, without anything else. I am confident that the turnip crop has claims on me beyond any other, whatever. But I would not dare to whisper even what my sentiments are to some of the Kennebec boys, for they are so rabid on that point now, it would not do to broach it rashly."

SORE NECKS IN OXEN. This is caused by using yokes that do not fit the neck, or by working the oxen in wet weather. It can be prevented by using good yokes and applying oil or lard to the neck in stormy weather.

REMEDY. Use ointment made of lard and bees-wax; or make a strong wash of white oak bark, and apply it night and morning.

[Ex. Paper.]

GRAFTING AND GRAFTING WAX.

The time has arrived not only for cutting grafts, but for setting them too. It is a good plan to set your scions early, more especially of stone fruits. It will be recollected that such fruits as cherries, plums, peaches, &c., start early, blossom earlier than apple trees, and should, of course, if you wish to engraft them, be engrafted very early, in order to insure success with them. We have been in the habit of publishing, every spring, the several recipes for making the grafting wax which is now so universally used. Different operators use different proportions of the ingredients commonly employed for making the wax. The proportions more commonly used are,

Good beef tallow, one part,
Beeswax, two parts,
Resin, four parts.

Melt them well together, and when thoroughly incorporated pour it into water, and work it as you would shoe-maker's wax. We have made a very good grafting wax, by adding to three parts of melted beeswax four parts of fish balsam.

We find, in the Bangor Courier, the following communication, from Col. Little, of Bangor, which we copy for the benefit of our readers.—The Colonel is an experienced horticulturist, and his recommendation of the process is a guaranty of its being a good one.

GRAFTING WAX ON COTTON CLOTH. Inquiries are frequently made for the best grafting wax and the recipe for making it. I have procured the recipe for the best article I have even seen, which was three years since invented by Maj. Chapman of this city, which he uses in grafting in his nursery with good and almost sure success. I have used it two years and find it valuable; it is very pliable, easily worked, and it contains nothing that in the least injures the scion or stock.

It should be made precisely according to the following recipe:

Recipe. 6 lbs. Beeswax; 1 lb. Rosin; 1 pint Linseed Oil. (No other oil than linseed should be used.) Melt them well together over a slow fire. They with a paint brush, spread the wax thinly while warm, on one side of thin but closely woven cloth. Cut the cloth when waxed (lengthwise, as the warp is the strongest) into strips as may be wanted—say half an inch wide and about 9 inches long—according to the size of the stock to be grafted.

Grafting can be worked with these strips very readily, as no strings are necessary, and may be very neatly as well as quickly performed.

These wax strips may also be used in budding trees. That the public may be better accommodated I will try to keep a supply of the above grafting cloth in our store for those who do not wish to make it for their own use.

I would again remind our citizens that to insure success, all stone fruits should be grafted before the frost is out of the ground, or as early afterwards as possible.

Respectfully, HENRY LITTLE.

MANURES AND ROTATION OF CROPS.

We make the following extracts from the statement of Elisha M. Bradley, of East Bloomfield, Ontario County, N. Y., who received one of the premiums offered for the best managed farms by the New York State Agricultural Society.

"My manure consists of the droppings of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry, mixed with refuse straw, leaves, and every other available substance convertible into manure. The accumulations in the privy, together with the carcasses of dead animals, plaster, muck, leached ashes, and almost every substance, (lime excepted,) find a place in the compost heap, and add much to the fertilizing products of the farm. A great amount of straw has been annually consumed on the farm, and is fed to sheep, cattle and horses, and freely used as litter. For the purpose of increasing the amount of manure for the farm, crops have been sown upon shares on other farms, and the grain drawn home and thrashed, and the straw consumed on the farm."

For the Maine Farmer.

PLASTER QUERY.

MR. EDITOR: I wish to be informed, through the Farmer, whether plaster of Paris has been the same variety for agricultural use after it has been ground and kept in casks 8 or 10 years, and whether it will be any benefit to the crops near the seashore. My farm is located near the shore, having lately changed my residence from the Kennebec, where I was in the habit of using plaster every year. We have a weed in this section, called the "headache." Will some one inform the public if that can be destroyed except by extirpating it from the earth. J. A. W. Camden, March 12, 1852.

NOTE. We know of no reason why plaster should lose any of its properties by being kept any number of years, if not exposed to acids, or vapors of an acid nature, that would decompose it. We have not much experience in regard to the application of plaster on lands near the sea, but have often been told that it was not generally beneficial to such soils. Some of our correspondents who have resided long in such situations, and experimented with plaster, can probably give us valuable information on this point.

The weed, or rather shrub, called headhuck, can be killed by mowing them down when in blossom, and repeating the mowing often. If the land can be ploughed and cultivated, this would be a good way to get rid of them. Eo.

A FARM IN THE NORTH. Our exchanges in the "sunny south" frequently boast of what the farmers in their neighborhood have done in the raising of cattle, hogs, &c. We give below an extract of a letter, showing what a gentleman has done on his farm in the northern country of Gloucester, and we challenge our contemporaries to produce a competitor.

Francis Ferguson, Esq., raised last year on his farm in Bathurst upwards of 1,000 bushels of wheat, 250 tons of upland hay; he killed 8 pigs of one litter, 13 months old, which averaged 400 lbs. each, 3200; the sow 777; a pig 14 months old, 646 lbs.; one 26 months old, 790 lbs.; altogether he killed last fall of his own raising 8,000 lbs. of pork. Also, a heifer, only 3 years old, which weighed 700 lbs. (Miramichi (N. B.) Pa.

FOR THE FARMER.

"IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

MR. EDITOR:—Much has been said in favor of improving the breeds and qualities of live stock. We have been told that, in Great Britain, men distinguished for their knowledge, for practical skill, and for their zeal in the cause of improvement, have made strong efforts to better the qualities of the several kinds of domestic animals. Men of large capital have engaged in the business, and, animated by public spirit, have persevered till even most astonishing results have been achieved. Now this has been the work of a long series of years, in which men, every way qualified for the task, have been engaged, and it may be a question whether we shall not be able to profit by the example.

But who will point out the best modes of improving our live stock? Are native or imported breeds to be preferred? Would it be best to try both, and also to improve by crossing and by all other possible means? If we import animals with a view to improve our live stock, should we not be cautious that these possess real and not pretended good qualities?

A few enterprising farmers among us have raised some very good stock, but a few individuals, in order to carry forward the work aright, should possess a large amount of scientific knowledge, good judgment, practical skill, and an abundance of capital, and, withal, great energy and perseverance. It is rarely the case that a single individual can be found who possesses all these qualities in a very high degree; and, indeed, who does not wish to see improvement become general, rather than that it should be confined to a few distinguished farmers? What concerns all, should be encouraged by all, and if there are difficulties in the way of the enterprise, let these be overcome by united efforts.

It is a discreditable fact that we have an abundance of live stock in our State that cannot be considered highly profitable.

It has been suggested that we could form an association in each incorporated town in the State, for the purpose of improving the qualities of our animals, and also promoting other objects connected with agricultural improvement, and if these associations could be conducted in some way under the auspices or direction of a State Agricultural Society and a Board of Agriculture, much, indeed, might be effected each year in the way of advancing the farming interests.

Then, if we can begin with the tender mind of the school boy, and let him learn some of the principles of farming, as laid down in the books—if our youth can learn what "scientific breeders" have already done, it may lead, in the end, to the most important results. The business of teaching "the young idea how to shoot," has been highly applauded, and we ask why public opinion should not favor the advancement of knowledge in agriculture, certainly one of the most useful of the sciences? JOHN E. ROLFE.

Rumford, March, 1852.

FOR THE FARMER.

SURE PAY AND SMALL PROFITS.

Merchants are not the only class which may adopt the principle of action denoted in the above caption, with advantage. I have known laborers who would not work unless they could get the highest wages—would spend three-fourths of their time in running about after the largest pay; and finally come out at the end of the year where they began; while he, who made it a point to keep doing, for such wages as he could get, would have quite a sum laid by. The reason why so many rush into the California gold hunt is that they are not satisfied with the small income of patient industry. They prefer the grab-gang system—rich in a trice, or nothing. Many of them would doubtless find that they had better be satisfied with the small pay and small profits of our New England farms. I was thinking, too, that our motto might be beneficially adopted by our farmers, in the selection of their seed corn for the ensuing season. Most of the farmers, I noticed, last season, planted a large seed, that did not ripen well. The Dutton, or twelve-rowed variety, was the only corn that I saw perfectly ripe and sound; and of many fields which I saw of this, not one failed to mature. Now have we not reason to apprehend that the past season was one of several to succeed, of the same piece? If so, would not prudence dictate that farmers who plant corn, (and all should,) seek for the earliest and best kind? Is there a better variety, for short, cold seasons, than the Dutton?

D. T. S.

ORIGIN OF THE BALDWIN APPLE.

NOTE. Some confusion has arisen in regard to the original habitat of this celebrated apple. One writer supposes it to have originated in Somersetshire, another that "Burlington adjoining Vermont" was its native place. Col. Jacques is referred to as avowing the ground where the original tree stood, and as having put a "monument" to its memory. We believe it is a fact Col. J. owns the ground referred to, and that he has marked the former site of the tree by a wooden post, which is shortly to give place to a block of granite. In a letter which the writer of this received from Col. J. in 1847, he states that the parent tree stood in Burlington, and that in the year 1784, he went with his father and Col. Loammi Baldwin, and saw them cut scions from it. If any new light has dawned on the subject within five years, we presume Col. J. can explain. [Boston Cultivator.]

The following recipe for a cold we can say is truly worth the price of this paper for many years. It was prescribed for us when we were suffering from a cough that seemed as if we were on the brink of Consumption, no cessation nor rest day or night. We took it, and were cured in three days.

The woman who gave the recipe has reared a large family in Onondaga county—has seen hundreds suffering from colds and consumption, and she assures us, that in thirty years' experience, and the experience of her friends before her, she has never heard of nor used any other remedy better than this for colds of every condition, even when on the borders of that scourge of man, consumption.

RECIPE. One table-spoonful of molasses; two tea-spoonfuls castor oil; one dr. pargoric; one dr. spiritus camphor. Mix and take often. [Northern Farmer.]

COATING IRON WITH OTHER METALS.

A few weeks ago, at the request of a friend, we gave some of the methods of covering iron with zinc, silver, &c. We here give more directions for this purpose, which are copied from the London Patent Journal. The article is entitled "Henry Grissell's improvements in coating metals with other metals."

Coating Iron with Zinc. For this purpose the patentees use a bath or vessel of iron, or other suitable material, in which, by means of heat, they melt the zinc, and on the surface of the melted zinc place a thick layer of chloride of zinc, (prepared by dissolving zinc in muriatic acid, and driving off the water)—or a mixture composed of 8 parts of chloride of zinc, and 10 parts of chloride of potassium—or a mixture of equal parts of chloride of zinc and chloride of sodium—or a mixture of equal parts of dry sulphate of zinc and chloride of sodium, or chloride of potassium. When the metal and salt are in a state of fusion, the iron to be coated with zinc is dipped into the metal through the covering of fused salt, and becomes coated with zinc. If, however, it is found that a sufficient quantity of zinc has not adhered to the iron, a small quantity of sal ammoniac, in powder, is sprinkled over the iron, which is again dipped into the melted zinc. Under this part of their invention, the patentees claim the use of chloride of zinc, applied as above mentioned, in the fused state; also of the mixtures of the various salts above enumerated.

Coating Zinc—Iron coated with Zinc, or other Metal, with a Metallic Alloy. For this purpose the patentees use a vessel of iron, or other suitable material, in which the alloy is melted. One of the alloys used by them is composed of zinc 10 parts, tin 26 parts, and lead 5 parts. A layer of chloride of zinc, mixed with an equal weight of sal ammoniac, is kept in a state of fusion on the surface of the metal alloy, the temperature of which must not be carried higher than is sufficient to keep the alloy in a fluid state. The metal to be coated is dipped into the melted alloy, but not allowed to remain therein longer than is absolutely necessary to receive a coating of the alloy. The patentees use also the alloy called "fusible metal," which they prefer to make as follows: Bismuth 8 parts, lead 5 parts, and tin 3 parts. Alloys of other compositions will do, provided their melting points are below 400° Fahrenheit. The patentees claim the use, in the manner above stated, of the alloys specified and referred to, and of the method above described for coating metals with such alloys.

Coating Iron or other metal with Tin, or Tin alloyed with Lead. For this purpose the patentees use a vessel of iron, or other suitable material, in which the tin or alloy is melted, and on the surface of the fused metal lay a stratum of chloride of zinc, mixed with about its own weight of sal ammoniac. The metal to be coated is then dipped into the liquid metal or alloy, until the coating is effected. The patentees state that it will be found advantageous in the use of this and the preceding process, to dip the metal to be coated several times, in order that it may come in contact often with the layer of fused salt—also advantageous in the preceding process, to dip the iron or other metal into a hot and slightly acid solution of chloride of zinc, previous to immersion in the bath of melted metal. The patentees claim, under this head of their invention, the use of a mixture of chloride of zinc and sal ammoniac, forming a saline compound, which is kept in a state of fusion on the surface of the melted tin or alloy, in the process of coating metals with other metals.

Coating Iron or other metal with Silver, or alloy of Silver and Copper. In this case the surface of the iron or other metal to be coated, is to be first amalgamated in the usual way. The patentees prefer to use, for the amalgamating process, a mixture of 12 parts of mercury, 1 of zinc, 2 of sulphate of iron, 2 of muriatic acid, and 12 of water—the mixture to be heated—and at 200° Fahrenheit, the iron to be amalgamated is placed in the mixture, and the mercury rubbed on the surface of the iron. The silver, or alloy of silver, is then melted in a crucible, placed in a suitable furnace, and the amalgamated metal is dipped into it until it has acquired a proper coating of the silver or alloy employed.

Coating Iron with Copper, Brass, or any alloy of Copper, with Zinc, Tin or Lead. In this case, the copper or alloy used, is melted in some suitable vessel, and on the surface of the melted metal is placed a layer of borosilicate of lead, (composed of 112 parts of oxide of lead, 24 of boracic acid, and 16 of silica,) and when the metal and the salt are in a state of fusion, the metal to be coated is introduced through the layer of salt into the melted metal, where it is allowed to remain long enough to acquire a coating of the metal. The patentees sometimes coat the iron with zinc, or with tin, or even amalgamate its surface with mercury in the way above mentioned, and then proceed to dip it into the melted copper or alloy. Another method of coating iron with copper or brass, is that of exposing it to the vapor of chloride of copper, by placing that substance at the bottom of a covered crucible, in the upper part of which is placed the iron to be coated. The crucible is heated to redness in a suitable furnace, and the vapors of the chloride of copper volatilize and coat the iron with copper. If the iron thus coated with copper be placed in the upper part of a covered crucible, in which metallic zinc, covered with animal and other charcoal, is placed, and heat applied as in the above case, the vapors of the zinc rise, and coming in contact with the copper-coated iron, convert the coating of copper into brass. Instead of chloride of copper, a mixture of metallic copper and sal ammoniac may be used, or a mixture of oxide of copper and sal ammoniac.

The patentees claim, under this head of their invention, the use of borosilicate of lead, in a fluid state, over the surface of melted copper or brass, or of the alloys above mentioned, in the process of coating iron with copper by the action of fused chloride of copper, or the mixtures above named, and of coating with brass by subsequent treatment with vapors of zinc, as above mentioned.

THE BLACKSMITH.

Now, as this rayless gloom outside I sing,
Thy realm of action spreading on the view,
Call to the sooty Blacksmith—be a king!

Thy reign renew;
Grouping thy more again, arise and do;
And, as thy massive hammer thunders down,
Shaping the stubborn iron to the plan,
Know that each stroke adds lustre to the crown,
And you wide span
Of glowing planets—behold a King!

Burn by the winds and waters through all time,
While there's a keel to curve into the sea,
From flame to flame,
Or God ordains that illness is crime!

BUTTER MAKING—INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

The following very interesting article is copied from the last number of the Genesee Farmer, and is from the pen of a Chenango Co. Dairyman. The experiments detailed, are very interesting to dairymen, and, if reliable, are calculated to correct an error into which hundreds of the dairymen in this State, and we presume elsewhere, have been led, by the views heretofore entertained that milk should be set in shallow, instead of deep pans, to ensure the greatest quantity of butter. This notion has, we think, been very prevalent among dairymen, and consequently a much greater number of pans, as well as greatly increased space, has been required, and the expense increased in a corresponding ratio.

We have never given credit to the idea, that milk should be set in shallow pans, to ensure the greatest quantity of cream, but the sentiment has so far gained ground among dairymen, as to be almost regarded as a settled point, and one about which there could be but little dispute. Our readers, among whom there are many experienced dairymen, will do the public a great service by making careful experiments, under circumstances calculated to lead to exact results, that so important an item in butter making, may be correctly understood, and those engaged in the business enabled to understand fully the advantages or disadvantages of the system. Such experiments, when made, ought to be spread before the farming community, and we shall take great pleasure in giving publicity to such as may be forwarded to us for publication.

There is no part of the State, where more attention is given to the manufacture of butter and cheese, than Central New York—and none where the business has, as a general rule, been in more intelligent hands. Let some of these men, or women, devote sufficient attention to the subject to settle the principle. [N. Y. Farmer.]

BUTTER MAKING. It is a very general opinion among dairymen; that more butter is obtained from a given quantity of milk when set in pans partly filled than when full. If this is true, it is well worth knowing; if not, a great deal of useless labor is expended. As the question has been often asked me, and I could give no answer, I determined to make the trial. As the result, so far as it proves anything, is of general interest, I send it for insertion in your paper. Such an experiment is valueless unless conducted with extreme care, and your readers might well doubt its accuracy unless shown that proper pains were taken. I will therefore give the particulars.

On the morning of the 20th November, the milk was strained all together into a tub. It was then dipped out into a pail holding five and a half quarts, which was filled carefully to the brim. Pans were taken that if any rich milk or cream had risen to the top, it should not be skimmed off, as it were, by dipping. The first pailful was turned into one pan, and the second into two, and so on alternately. There were eleven of the former and twenty-two of the latter. They were placed on the shelves of the milk-room alternately, least the difference of position should affect the result. The milk stood till it thickened, which was about four days. The full pans thickened sooner than the other. As there was not quite enough cream of each kind for a suitable churning, and that not a particle be lost, considerable milk was taken off in skimming. The cream from the half filled pans was a very little warmer when put into the churn than the other. It could hardly be perceived in the cream, but it came sooner and was a trifle softer to work over. When weighed there was 6 lbs. 7 oz. from the full pans, and 6 lbs. 24 oz. from the pans half filled. This was an unexpected result, but I could conceive of no vitiation cause unless possibly the slight difference of temperature in the cream might affect it. The pans were of the usual size—about the bottom being 11 1/2 inches in diameter. The milk stood 24 inches deep in the full pans. A pound of butter was obtained from 9 1/2 quarts of milk.

To verify this experiment, or to detect mistakes, if any, I repeated it. On the mornings of the 29th and 30th of November, 210 quarts of milk were set with the same precautions as before—six quarts in the full pans and three in the others. This stood nearly a week before skimming. No difference of temperature could be perceived in the cream when put into the churn. If there was any difference in the butter, that from the full pans was a trifle softer than the other—the reverse of the former experiment. From the full pans there were obtained 12 lbs. 10 oz. of butter, and from the others 12 lbs. and nearly 1 oz. The difference in this case was about 44 per cent., the same as in the former trial. The milk stood in the full pans 2 1/2 inches deep. A pound of butter was obtained from 8 1/2 quarts. It is all of three times as much work to skim the half filled pans as the others. The question then arose whether still larger dishes were not better. Another trial was made by setting 208 quarts, with the same precautions as before, one-half in pans holding six quarts, and the other half in those holding twelve quarts. From the small pans were obtained 10 lbs. 15 oz., and from the larger ones 11 lbs. 34 oz. The difference in this case, of 44 oz., was about 21 per cent. in favor of the larger pans.

The reason that the full pans cost time gave the most butter, I cannot give; but I think the result is owing to unequal evaporation. The amount of cream and skim-milk is less than the new milk. The milk from one full pan and two half pans was measured, and that from the full pan was half a pint the most, or one-twenty-fourth of the whole. This is four and one-sixth per cent.—about the same difference as in the butter. If this is not the reason, I am conceivably of no other. L. N.

Sherburne, N. Y.

FLAX AND FLAX COTTON.

[CONCLUDED.]

"The visitors began to arrive shortly after twelve o'clock, and were introduced to Mr. Clausen in a waiting-room, where Dr. Ryan shortly afterwards, and preparatory to the examination of the works, in a very able and interesting address, stated the main points of the invention, and upon a small scale showed each of the chemical processes to be afterwards examined."

Upon leaving this apartment, the whole body of visitors, headed by the inventor and Dr. Ryan, proceeded to the "sample-room," which was filled with samples of the fibres in each of the stages of manufacture, unbleached, bleached, and dyed of every hue and shade of color, and fabrics of various kinds formed of the yarn into which they had been converted. They were examined with great interest, and, at the request of Sir W. Hooker, an ample selection was made for deposition in the museum of the Botanical Gardens. From the "sample-room" the visitors proceeded to the "bleaching and cleaning-room." In order to the proper understanding of the process here adopted, it may be necessary to state that the stem of the Flax Plant, as it comes from the field, consists of several perfectly distinct parts. There is the woody substance or straw, which supports the plant while growing, the fibres which lie upon the surface of this straw, and the glutinous and other matters, which cause the fibres to adhere as well to each other as to the straw. Of these three parts, the fibre only is the portion required for manufacturing purposes. The object, then, of this bleaching or partial cleaning, and which may be called the preparatory stage in the process, is to reduce the bulk and weight of the material to be afterwards operated upon, to render its transport less costly to the grower, and also to permit him to retain a portion as chaff, useful for mixing with other cattle food; thus returning to the soil a large proportion of the crop, which hitherto has been entirely abstracted from the soil, or rendered valueless by the process of steeping. The manufacturer or person employed to prepare the Flax for him also derives an advantage from this arrangement, inasmuch as he is enabled to steep a larger proportion of pure fibre than formerly in the steeping-vats, and the chemical agents employed, whether fermentative or otherwise, are enabled to act more rapidly and more directly upon the fibre than when in its whole or unbroken state. It is also adapted in this stage for manufacture into Canvas, Sail-cloth, Cordage, and other coarse kinds of fabrics. In the same room were two cutting-machines for reducing the length of the fibre when required for preparation for cotton and woolen machinery.

"Having shown the means by which the Flax required for steeping was prepared, the visitors were led into the steeping-rooms, where Dr. Ryan exhibited some Flax in the course of boiling and steeping in cold water, in the unbroken as well as broken state. When boiled, the period of operation is about four hours; when steeped in cold solution of caustic soda, it is not sufficiently steeped in less than twenty-four hours. By the present mode of steeping, the period occupied ranges from three days to six weeks. The contents of one of the vats having been sufficiently boiled, it was taken out and placed in a bath slightly acidulated with sulphuric acid. After drying, the fibre was fitted for the further process of scouring and cleansing."

"Having gone through the whole of the steps required to produce the fibre for the linen manufacturer, the 'scouring' process was next explained. The Flax having been partially cleaned and boiled, precisely as in the case of the long fibre, it was placed in the first of a series of six vats containing a cold solution of soda and water, in which it remained till fully saturated. Thence it was removed into vat No. 2, with a solution of sulphuric acid, where it remained as long as any bubbles of carbonic acid rose to the surface. It was in this vat that what is called the 'splitting process' takes place, and where the mechanical action of chemical forces is so beautifully illustrated. The effect was almost instantaneous. The character of the Flax fibre became at once changed from that of a damp aggregated substance to a light expansive mass of cotton-like texture. Its specific gravity was completely altered, and the mass, which at first lay submerged beneath, gradually floated like an expanding sponge to the surface of the fluid. The result was generally and loudly cheered by all present. For the purpose of removing any superfluous acid, and to carry the separation a still farther, the fibre was immersed in a second vat of a weak solution of carbonate of soda. It was then ready for washing, carding, and spinning, in the same manner as ordinary cotton."

"A third, equally interesting and not less important process shown, was that of bleaching fibres, yarns, and fabrics. Under existing systems, the time consumed in bleaching a piece of linen occupies from three weeks to as many months. Under the Chevalier Clausen system, the period required is not more than as many hours, while the chemical ingredients employed, far from injuring the material, greatly improve its quality. The rapid change in the color, as in the previous instance, of the texture of the substance, was warmly applauded."

"The bleaching process concluded, the visitors were shown into the 'carding-room,' where a number of machines, such as 'devils,' 'carders,' and others usually employed in the respective branches of manufacture, were shown at work."

"We may state that jute, hemp, and various other fibrous substances were shown to be capable of being treated upon the above process, and that, in answer to several questions, it was stated that the 'Flax Cotton' and 'Flax Wool' could be prepared at prices not 3d. per pound."

The profits to be obtained from the preparation of Flax Cotton are such as to offer the greatest inducements for persons to embark in the undertaking, as shown in the following estimate of the cost of production and value of the article:

Five tons of Flax Straw at \$10, \$50 00

Ingredients employed, Labor and

Interest on Capital invested, 00 00

\$50 00

One ton of Flax Cotton, at 10c. per lb. 200 00

\$250 00

Profit on 1 ton,

In England, where they have to pay at the rate of \$15 to \$20 per ton, the cost of production is only 6c., and the market value of it in

the prepared state is 12c., leaving a profit of 100 per cent.

I am credibly informed that abundance of Flax Straw can be had in Ohio at \$5 per ton. When farmers find it profitable for them to raise Flax on account of the seed alone, and place no value upon the straw, I think it would be within bounds to base our calculations on obtaining straw for Flax Cotton purposes at \$5. You will perceive that in the above statement I value Flax Straw at \$10, which is the maximum price paid for it in this neighborhood."

The Scotch patent has been sold for 25,000 sterling, (\$125,000), and from good authority I learn that double that amount has been given for the French patent. Mr. E. G. Roberts has sold the right in this country for the States of Maine, New-Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New-York, and Illinois, and is negotiating with several parties for other States. Applications have been received for every State in the Union, even Oregon not excepted. ALLAN CAMERON.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY OF CALIFORNIA. By the latest advices from California it appears that more attention was being paid to the cultivation of the soil. This is as it should be. California will never become a wealthy and prosperous State so long as she is dependent upon other countries for necessities of life. A San Francisco correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, says:

"Immense quantities of barley and wheat have been, and are still in process of being sown in our valley—thousands and tens of thousands of acres are being occupied and tilled by the husbandman the present season. Seed wheat has been greatly sought after at 6 to 8c. per lb."

Great attention is being turned to Horticultural pursuits, and seeds of all kinds have been in active request; others are forming nurseries and raising the fruit for apple seeds, peach pits, &c., and paying their weight in gold dust for all they can lay their hands on. Thousands of fruit trees will be planted this year, the quantity only limited by the scanty supply from Atlantic nurseries."

Agricultural implements of all kinds have been in very active request, but the season is now drawing to a close, and the deficiency in plows has been made up by arrivals from Oregon of some two hundred or more, made in Boston, and sent there for sale; but California is to take the lead



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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

FIRST LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

REPORTED FOR THE FARMER.

Pursuant to notice, the members of the Legislature, and others interested in the subject of agriculture, visiting the capital, assembled at the Representatives' Hall, which had been granted for the meeting by an order of the House of Representatives, on Wednesday evening, March 9, 1852.

On motion of Mr. Nickerson of Orrington, Col. Jesse Smart of Troy was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Louis O. Cowan of Saco was elected Secretary.

Col. Smart, on taking the Chair, stated that some of the friends of agriculture, supposing that the cause of agriculture might be aided by a series of meetings, for conversation and discussion on matters pertaining to agricultural pursuits, had proposed that all interested in the subject should be invited to come together for the interchange of opinions. The meeting, he supposed, grew out of this proposition, which he regarded as a wise one. There had been no subject prepared for consideration this evening, and as it was a preliminary meeting, he would offer, for discussion this evening, a resolve, covering not particular subjects, in regard to crops, or methods of cultivation, but one of general character, having reference to the objects to be attained by such meetings.

He proposed this resolve:—

Resolved, That much practical information may be obtained, in the science of agriculture, by an interchange of opinions among practical farmers.

The resolve elicited remarks from Messrs. Nickerson of Orrington, Foster of East Machias, Boothby of Saco, Smalley of St. George, and others, all approving the sentiments of the resolution, and in approbation of the meetings. Several subjects connected with the raising of crops were incidentally alluded to in the course of the evening, but no specific one engaged the attention of the meeting. It was proposed to make the subject of cultivating fruit the one for consideration at the next meeting, and the proposition was assented to. The meeting then adjourned to meet on Tuesday, March 14, 1852. About thirty-five or forty persons, principally members of the Legislature, were present on this occasion.

SECOND MEETING.

The Chair announced that the subject under consideration for the evening, as directed at the last meeting, was the cultivation of Fruit, embracing soils adapted to its growth, suitable manures, best method of grafting and propagating, varieties, or in a word, to state the subject in the form of a question, it was, "Can Fruit Growing be profitable in Maine?" He hoped that gentlemen who were acquainted with this important and pleasant branch of agriculture, could speak from scientific knowledge and practical experience, would give their views freely, and in order to set the ball in motion, as he saw present the editor of the Farmer, Dr. Holmes, a gentleman acquainted with the subject in all its bearings, he would call on him for some opening remarks.

Dr. Holmes, in rising to respond to the call, said that he considered it well settled that most varieties of Fruit, and particularly apples, could be profitably raised in Maine. There were some fruits that could be raised, such as plums, cherries, currants and gooseberries, advantageously, but they would not probably be cultivated so extensively for a market, as a source of profit, as the apple, and to this variety of Fruit he thought attention should be particularly directed. It was an ascertained fact that the more northern the region in which the apple would ripen, the better the fruit of this kind could be raised, best in flavor, and best for keeping. A large part of Maine was peculiarly favorably situated in this respect. Its soil and climate were adapted to the growth of the best varieties of apples, and their cultivation was now, and would be hereafter, a great business with farmers. There were some parts of the State where the season did not appear to be quite long enough to bring to maturity well some of the varieties of apples, but kinds would be found adapted to these localities. In Amity, Aronstook county, he had been told by Mr. Walton, who has a nursery there, that some apples did not ripen so perfectly, and the trees were not so large as in the interior and western sections of the State. As we come this way the trees grow larger. Some years ago a Pomological Society was established in this section, the members brought in hundreds of seedling apples, and they were examined. He thought that the examination established the fact that apples which have originated in Maine are best for Maine. Some very fine apples had originated in Maine.

In regard to pears, the Fulton originated in Topsfield, the McLaughlin in Scarborough; some had originated on the Kennebec. The McLaughlin plum, which is one of the best, originated some where in the vicinity of Bangor. He did not propose to go very deep into the discussion this evening. He saw his friend, Mr. Foster of Gardiner, present, a gentleman who had given much attention to fruit raising, and he knew he could shed much light upon the subject, and he would, with the permission of the Chair, call on him for further light.

Mr. Foster, in rising to respond to the call, said that he came rather to be a listener than to talk himself. He did not until this morning know that he should attend, but he was induced to do so by an invitation from the Chair. He considered the subject selected was one of much importance. He should confine himself chiefly to the apple, as he conceived the cultivation of this fruit as the most important to the farmers of Maine, and it was with this fruit he had most to say. The farmers of Maine could raise a supply of the small Fruits for their own use, but they must rely upon the apple alone for exportation. There can be no doubt that the culture of the apple returns more profit in proportion to the amount of capital invested than any other branch of agriculture. There was no section of the United States where winter apples can be raised so well as in Maine. It was a crop less liable to fall than any other. In New York, New Jersey and elsewhere, the crop has been cut off, but never entirely, to his knowledge, in Maine. The crop varies according to the season and food given to produce the fruit. Our Fruit is in better demand abroad than from other sections. Much might be done by agitating the subject, and perhaps the Legislature might do something to stimulate the cultivation of Fruit by bounties, or by abating a certain portion of the State tax to places where the culture of the apple was encouraged.

Mr. Foster thought there had been a mistake in planting orchards near their buildings, without consulting the character of the soil. It was a mistake that perhaps could not be well avoided in some instances. The rocky pasture land was the best for orchards. It would be better for farmers to keep their tillage land, which is generally situated around their buildings, and on to which it is easy to carry their dressing for tillage purposes, and select a portion of their pasture land, such as is rocky and unfit for the plough, for the orchard. He would have, say in a pasture of some thirty or forty acres, a few acres devoted to the orchard, and no trees growing in the pasture except in the orchard. In the summer the cattle would resort there for shade, leaving their manure, and thus, if the ground was well dressed when the trees were set out, keeping the

land in heart. Sheep would be a good kind of stock to be kept in a pasture partially devoted to an orchard. Thick planting was another common error in the management of an orchard. It was impossible that trees, at the distance of only twenty or thirty feet apart should grow well; trees should be set several rods from each other. He knew of several trees which from outside to outside of their tops, measure four rods. He had noticed that the outside rows of trees in many orchards were healthy, while the inside rows, situated so as not to obtain a fair proportion of sun and air, were diseased. This was in part attributable to ploughing the orchards.

He was satisfied that it was not a good plan to plough and cultivate the land in orchards. Ploughing wounded the trees, broke off the roots, and induced disease. It was best to select a spot for the orchard, which the farmer would never want to plough. He recollected a case which confirmed his theory. He was called upon, by a farmer, to graft his orchard. The orchard where the grafting was to be done had been prepared with great care, ploughed often, and the trees pruned closely. By its side stood another orchard in a pasture. When he went into the orchard for the purpose of grafting, the trees he found were much diseased. He thought he would examine the trees in the pasture, as they were planted at the same time, in like soil, and the only difference in their management was that while the trees in the enclosed orchard had been pruned closely and ploughed among, those in the pasture had been left to grow pretty much as they would. The trees in the pasture he found sound—the wood white clear through. He was satisfied that ploughing, breaking the roots as it must in every direction, was bad treatment for the orchard.

As to the subject of grafting, an opinion prevails pretty extensively that it is not a good plan to graft old trees. He thought it a mistake even if a tree was a hundred years old, and had always borne good fruit, he would graft and make it bear good fruit for the next century of its life. Mr. Foster said, in early life he came into possession of an orchard; that orchard has never been ploughed—other orchards in the neighborhood have been set, and furnished for a few years, and when declined they had been ploughed. His orchard had been moved for thirty years. It is now in a good condition, and bears well.

Mr. Cowan, of Saco, said that although he was not a fruit grower, he had felt a deep interest in the cultivation of fruit; and had, in the paper which he conducted, urged upon the farmers again and again for years, the profit and pleasure derived from the cultivation of fruit. In early life he had been fortunate, good fortune he would say, to learn agricultural employment; and he remembered ever with pleasure the old associations of the orchard. In the section where he resided, (York County) there had been a very much increased attention to the growing of the apple. The markets of Saco and Biddeford were supplied with a much better quality of fruit than they were a few years ago, and the price of good apples had not diminished. Indeed, it was quite impossible that the supply would outrun the demand. New markets for Maine apples were constantly opening, and he looked forward to the day when this branch of Agriculture would be pursued very extensively in our State, to supply a foreign demand. He was not, perhaps, the experience, qualified to impart much knowledge as to the best method of raising an orchard, or of managing it after it had come well into bearing, but it seemed to him that orchards wanted attention as much as any other crops. The corn-field was bountifully supplied with food in the shape of manures; the thorn and thistle were not suffered to check the growth of the plant, and it seemed to him that orchards require food as well as corn required constant care to make it yield. He had noticed, when a boy, in his father's orchard, and in later years similar facts had come under his observation, that the trees which received the wash of the barn yard and buildings, thrived most vigorously, and never failed to bear plentifully. The old fashioned practice of setting out an orchard, and then leaving it to bear if it would, giving it nothing to subsist on, was departing. Keeping apples was a subject intimately connected with the raising of fruit. The practice which his father had followed, he thought might be a good one. It was to pick the apples from the trees, after fully ripe, put them into barrels, leave the barrels up, and then turning them on the bulge, let them remain under the trees as long as it was safe to do so on account of the frost. When put into the cellar, they were put into the coolest part. The subject was a fruitful one, and he hoped that it would be thoroughly discussed before it was dismissed. Mr. Cowan said he would ask the gentleman from Gardiner, who had had great experience in grafting, if it was a good plan to take scions for grafting from trees somewhat advanced in years, and giving indications of decay?

Mr. Foster said in reply, that he should have no hesitation in taking scions from trees advanced in years. He regarded it of little consequence where they were taken—the main point was to take them from trees the fruit of which was worth cultivation.

The Chairman, Col. Smart of Troy, said that if the gentleman was disposed to occupy the time, he would say a word as to his views of fruit culture, and his experience in raising fruit. He had been, as it were, reared in an orchard. There was no danger in overstocking the market. The apples of Maine would always find a market South when apples from the Middle and Western States were a drug. The fruit of the West, which finds its way down the Mississippi to New Orleans, was coarse, its flavor bad, and not to be compared with the fruit from Maine. He concurred with his friend Foster, somewhat, in his ideas respecting ploughing an orchard. A brother of his had taken three crops of wheat from his orchard, and he was aware that the trees had suffered materially in consequence, and that injudicious tilling had caused it to decline. Several years ago, his son took a considerable quantity of muck from a low spot where grass grew, and carried it into the orchard, and spread it among the trees, and he thought the process increased the yield of the trees very much. The Baldwin apple, he thought, was the best to raise for market—the Ribston Pippin was decidedly the richest in flavor. He had had very good success with the variety called Kilbuck. The tree grew small, but it bore well. Mr. Smart hoped the subject would go over for further discussion, as it was one of great importance.

Mr. Boothby, of Saco, would subscribe to the doctrine that ploughing in an orchard was detrimental to the trees. It was his experience. He had several trees in a pasture, situated near a spring where the stock went to water. In the summer, the stock would go to the spring for water, and having shaken their thirst, would lie down under the trees, and stamp around them, keeping the ground porous. These trees had flourished finely and bore well, while he could not say so much for his trees situated elsewhere.

The meeting voted to continue the discussion of fruit culture, on Friday evening, to which time it adjourned.

Several articles in type for this number, and notices of new works, are crowded out by the report of the agricultural meeting.

For the Maine Farmer.

BRIEF HISTORY OF HUNGARY.—No. 2.

BY JOHN S. LYNDE.

Solyman, the magnificent of the Ottoman throne, entered Hungary in 1526, with a numerous army, investing Belgrade, which was deemed the chief barrier of the kingdom against the Turkish arms, and soon forced it to surrender. He again invaded it with an army of three hundred thousand men; and Lewis II, king of that country and Bohemia, a weak and inexperienced prince, advanced rashly to meet him with a body of men which did not amount to thirty thousand. With an impudence still more unparagonable, he gave the command of those troops to the archbishop of Gorizia. This awkward general, in the dress of his order, girt with his cord, rushed at the head of his troops, and, hurried on by his own presumption as well as by the impetuosity of nobles, who despised danger but were impatient of long service, he fought the fatal battle of Mohacz, in which the king, the flower of the Hungarian nobility, and upwards of twenty thousand men, fell the victims of his folly and ill conduct.

Solyman, after his victory, seized and kept possession of several towns of the greatest strength in the southern provinces of Hungary, and overrunning the rest of the country, carried nearly two hundred thousand persons into captivity. As Lewis was slain in this battle, which almost proved fatal to Hungary, the archduke Ferdinand of the House of Austria—brother to the emperor Charles V, to whom Charles had transmitted the imperial sceptre—having married the sister of Lewis, claimed the title of the crown of Hungary, to which he succeeded with some difficulty.

As Lewis was the last male of the royal family of Jagellon, the archduke Ferdinand claimed both his crown and his kingdom.

It will be at once seen that this claim was founded on a double title—the one derived from the ancient pretensions of the House of Austria to both kingdoms; the other from the right of his wife, the only sister to Lewis.

The feudal institutions, however, subsisted both in Hungary and Bohemia in such rigor, and the nobles possessed such extensive power, that the crown was elective; and Ferdinand's rights, had they not been powerfully supported, would have met with little regard. But his own personal merit, the respect due to the brother of the greatest monarch in Christendom, the necessity of choosing a prince able to afford his subjects some additional protection against the Turkish arms, which, as they had recently felt their power, they greatly dreaded, together with the intrigues of his sister, who had been married to the late king, overcame the prejudices which the Hungarians had conceived against the archduke as a foreigner, and, although a considerable party were not a fruit grower, he had felt a deep interest in the cultivation of fruit; and had, in the paper which he conducted, urged upon the farmers again and again for years, the profit and pleasure derived from the cultivation of fruit.

In early life he had been fortunate, good fortune he would say, to learn agricultural employment; and he remembered ever with pleasure the old associations of the orchard. In the section where he resided, (York County) there had been a very much increased attention to the growing of the apple. The markets of Saco and Biddeford were supplied with a much better quality of fruit than they were a few years ago, and the price of good apples had not diminished. Indeed, it was quite impossible that the supply would outrun the demand. New markets for Maine apples were constantly opening, and he looked forward to the day when this branch of Agriculture would be pursued very extensively in our State, to supply a foreign demand.

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tion which had so long maintained his father on the throne of Hungary.

Solyman, though Ferdinand used his utmost endeavors to thwart this negotiation, and even endeavored to accept the Hungarian crown on the same ignominious condition of paying tribute to Solyman, by which Solyman held it, saw such advantage from espousing the interest of Stephen, that he instantly promised him his protection; and commanding an army to advance forthwith towards Hungary, he himself followed with another.

Meanwhile the Germans, hoping to terminate the war by the reduction of a city in which Stephen and his mother were shut up, had formed the siege of Buda. Martiniuzzi, having drawn thither the strength of the Hungarian nobility, defended the city with such courage and skill, as allowed the Turkish forces time to come up to his relief. They instantly attacked the Germans, who were weakened by fatigue, disease and desertion, and defeated them with great slaughter.

Solyman soon after joined his victorious troops, and being weary of so many expensive expeditions, undertaken in defence of dominions which were not his own, or being unable to resist this alluring opportunity of seizing a kingdom well possessed by an infant, under the guardianship of a woman and a priest, he allowed interested considerations to triumph with too much facility over the principles of honor and the sentiments of humanity. What he planned ungenerously, he executed by fraud.

Having prevailed on Queen Isabella to send her son Stephen, whom he pretended to be desirous of serving, into his camp, and having, at the same time, invited the chief of the nobility to an entertainment there, while they suspected no treachery, a select band of troops, by Solyman's orders, seized one of the gates of Buda. Being thus master of the capital, of the young king's person, and of the leading men among the nobles, he gave orders to conduct the queen, together with her son, to Transylvania, which province he allotted to them, and appointed a bashaw to reside in Buda with a large body of troops, and annexed Hungary to his empire.

The tears and complaints of the unhappy queen had no influence to change his purpose. He could Martiniuzzi either resist his absolute and uncontrollable command, or prevail on him to recall it. This took place in the year 1541.

Thus Solyman, by stratagem, which suited the base and insidious policy of a petty usurper rather than the magnanimity of a mighty conqueror, deprived the young king Stephen of Hungary, of the inheritance which his father left him; but he granted that unfortunate prince the country of Transylvania, a province of his paternal kingdom.

The government of this, together with the care of educating the young king, he committed to the queen, his mother, and Martiniuzzi, whom the late king had appointed guardians of his son, and regents of his dominions.

LADIES ON HORSEBACK.

Since our roads have been made smooth, and easy rolling carriages become common, the good, old fashioned, healthy exercise of riding on horseback is little practiced. We are sorry it is so much neglected, especially by ladies. The time when the girls of Maine were equal to the "flying Tartars" in this business, and would guide the fiery courser with as much ease and skill as any of the hard riders of Christendom or pagodam, is not now.

Last fall the Licking Co. (Ohio) Agricultural Society offered a premium for the best saddle of the horses brought forward, and to test the merits of the horses brought forward, it was finally concluded to let some of the girls try them on the ground, and a rare frolic they had of it. The Ohio Cultivator thus describes the sport:

"The most exciting feature of the first day's exhibition was the competition for the three premiums offered for ladies' riding horses, which, in the end, turned upon the skill of the riders themselves. Three horses were entered, and made their debut within the ring at an easy pace—Miss Seymour of Madison, and Marble of Newton, in elegant riding costumes, at first led the ring with decided advantage. Miss Hollenbeck of Hanover, followed, riding the horse N. B. Hogg, in a walking dress, but being a girl of true knightly spirit, soon dexterously reined in her horse, and by a few well applied blows of her riding whip brought up his mettle to the gauge of her own, and, giving him rein, dashed forward, and, taking the inside, such a wild Arab flight broke Sweeney never saw before. On a flight the beautiful steed, and the thousands cheered, the winds playing the mischief with spectators' hair, the victory was won. Then a series of evolutions, curvettings, and capers, showed what country girls can do when they get the reins into their own hands. The premiums were awarded to the ladies by acclamation."

EDITOR'S TABLE.

TREATISE ON THE POTATO. We have rec'd a pamphlet of nearly 50 pages, entitled—"A Treatise on the Potato: with an Essay to show the cause of the Disease, and to suggest its remedy." By Wm. J. A. Bradford, Boston." The author takes up the subject in a systematic manner, first treating of the physiology and nature and constitution of the plant, second, the mode of multiplying or reproducing, third, the period of duration of new varieties of the potato in view of the analogy of the potato root to the canker in fruit trees, &c., &c. Mr. Bradford considers that the potato rot is caused neither by fungi nor insects, but that these come on after the disease is established. He says the disease must either be an epidemic that indiscriminately attacks all plants, sound or weak, young or old, or it must be old age. He concludes it is

